



# The Emerald News

Office of  
Councilmember  
Marti Emerald

Volume 6, Issue 4

April 2014



## District 9

### Communities

- Alvarado Estates
- Azalea Park
- Castle
- Cherokee Point
- Chollas Creek
- Colina Park
- College Area
- Corridor
- Denstedt Point
- El Cerrito
- Fairmount Park
- Fairmount Village
- Fox Canyon
- Hollywood Park
- Islenair
- Kensington
- Mountain View
- Mt Hope
- Ridgeview
- Rolando
- Saranac-Mohawk
- Southcrest
- Swan Canyon
- Talmadge
- Teralta-East & West
- Willie Henderson

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Dear Friends:

Thank you for taking the time to read this month's issue of *The Emerald News*. March was quite an eventful month in City Hall! My colleagues and I are currently considering two items to include in the November ballot for San Diegans to consider. I invite you to join the discussion and let me and my council representatives know how you feel about (1) raising the minimum wage and increasing access to earned sick leave in San Diego and (2) expanding "Open Government" policies in our local government.



*Councilmember Emerald joins community leaders at a press conference to discuss raising the minimum wage and increasing access to paid sick leave.*

### Raising San Diego's Minimum Wage and Increasing Access to Earned Sick leave:

An employee making the minimum wage in San Diego, cannot meet the basic cost of living. A minimum wage job pays \$16,000 a year and the cost of living in the region is nearly double that at \$30,000 a year. In addition, nearly half of San Diegans working in the private sector lack access to earned sick days. This includes restaurant employees, childcare providers, and other jobs with high public contact. People who go to work sick risk passing illnesses on to coworkers and their customers—but many are forced to choose between going to work sick or losing a day's pay. Raising San Diego's minimum wage and increasing access to earned sick leave is good for our families, economy, and public safety.

### Expanding "Open Government" Policies in San Diego:

Ensuring that San Diegans have broad and open access to government documents and information is critical to protecting the democratic process. I believe we have an opportunity to make important



*Councilmember Emerald with Councilmember David Alvarez and Donna Frye discussing the need to expand "Open Government" policies.*

reforms to the City Charter that help protect the people's right of access. Among other things this new policy would require: (1) Communication on all mediums, including emails and text messages, that concerns city business to be open to public records requests. Currently, the charter only requires that "books, records and accounts" be open. (2) Access to city employees' and city contractors' communication. The charter currently only requires access to city officials' communication.

These two policy ideas can greatly impact our city and our everyday lives and I would love to hear your thoughts and concerns on whether we should include these measures on November's ballot. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions, concerns, or for additional information.

*Thanks, Marti*

## Community Representatives

### Rudy Vargas

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Cherokee Point, Corridor,  
Fairmount Village, Swan  
Canyon, Teralta—East/  
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## Safe Neighborhoods

Kelly contacted my office concerned about speeding vehicles on Amherst Street where she lives with her husband Todd and their young son Caelum. We referred Kelly to Traffic Engineering and obtained petitions to take to her neighbors. Over 75% of the property owners on Amherst signed the petition to install speed humps. The request was heard and approved by the Eastern Area Communities Planning Group and the result is a safer neighborhood for everyone, especially for kids like Caelum.



## Mark Kassab Steps Up to Help Community

Access to bus passes was one of the major concerns raised by the community due to the closure of Albertsons in City Heights. Many were worried that they would not have a place to buy bus passes which they use to get to work, appointments, etc. Mark Kassab has stepped up to the plate to help out the community and confirmed that he is working with MTS and will be selling bus passes at three locations, Murphy's at Dwight and Fairmount, Murphy's at 46th and University and the Chevron Gas Station at 4055 University. His markets will also carry anything you may need from baby formula to products previously provided by Albertson's.





## Rehabilitation of the Silverado Ballroom



I am proud to report that on March 11, 2014 council approved a loan agreement for the rehabilitation and renovation of the Silverado Ballroom Building. This building means so much to so many in City Heights and I am glad to see this item move forward. It now goes to an oversight committee for further consideration and approval.

## April Events

**Wednesday, April 2—Cherokee Point Community Clean Up:** Please contact Beth Riley at (858) 573-1260 for event information

**Saturday, April 5—2nd Annual International Health Fair :** Hosted by ALC, the 2nd Annual International Health Fair will be held at Colina Park from 10 am—2pm and will include health screenings, informational booths, and a Body Combat Class all of which are free to the public!

**Saturday, April 12— Sunday, April 13—** The **Khmer New Year Festival** will be held on Saturday, April 12 & Sunday, April 13, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., at Colina Del Sol Park. This year's event is the second annual festival and will highlight cultural dance, song and music by the Cambodian community.

**Sunday, April 13—Taste of College:** Treat your taste buds to a culinary adventure like never before in the College Area on Sunday, April 13th, 2014 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM! Showcasing over 20 diverse dining destinations in the College Area, this year's College Area Taste promises to be more delicious than ever.

**Saturday, April 26—The 12th Annual Creek to Bay Cleanup** will be happening at several locations through out the district. If you are looking to get involved please feel free to contact our office !



# Marti in the District



Councilmember Emerald hosted a tour for Interact students from Hoover High on March 5, 2014. They visited City Hall to learn more about how the city impacts their daily lives, toured a Fire Station, witnessed the swearing in of the



Councilmember Emerald joined Mayor Faulconer in presenting a proclamation to the SDSU community at the official grand opening of Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Center on March 8, 2014.



Councilmember Emerald held a press conference in City Heights with Mayor Kevin Faulconer on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 stressing the need for better sidewalks and public facilities for every San Diego neighborhood.



Councilmember Emerald proclaimed March 18, 2014 "Eliseo Nunez Day" in the City of San Diego. Eliseo was recently named the National Corpsmember of the Year - one of just 6 chosen from 27,000 applicants nationwide.

## INTERNSHIPS

San Diego City Councilmember Emerald's office is currently accepting applications from motivated high school and college students looking to gain experience interning for an elected official.

Interested applicants should e-mail Julio Rivera a cover letter, résumé and at least one letter of recommendation, along with a brief writing sample, to [jcrivera@sandiego.gov](mailto:jcrivera@sandiego.gov). Please feel free to call (619) 236-6725 with any questions.